

How to Administer IM (Intramuscular) Injections

INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTIONS

Age	Needle Gauge and Length*	Injection Site
Newborn to 28 days	25g – 5/8 inch [†]	• Anterolateral thigh
Infant 1-12 months	23-25g – 5/8 [†] to 1 inch [§]	• Anterolateral thigh
Toddler 13-35 months	23-25g – 1 inch [§]	• Anterolateral thigh (preferred site)
	23-25g – 5/8 [†] to 1 inch	• Deltoid muscle (may be used only if muscle mass is adequate)
Children 3 - 18 years	23-25g – 5/8 [†] to 1 inch [§]	• Deltoid muscle (preferred site)
	23-25g – 1 to 1 1/2 inch	• Anterolateral thigh
Adults 19 and older	22-25g – 1 to 1 1/2 inch	• Deltoid muscle (preferred site)
	1 inch: Women <200 pounds; Men <260 pounds 1 1/2 inch: Women >200 pounds; Men >260 pounds	• Anterolateral thigh

* A decision on needle size and site of injection must be made for each person on the basis of the size of the muscle, the thickness of adipose tissue at the injection site, the volume of the material to be administered, injection technique, and the depth below the muscle surface into which the material will be injected.

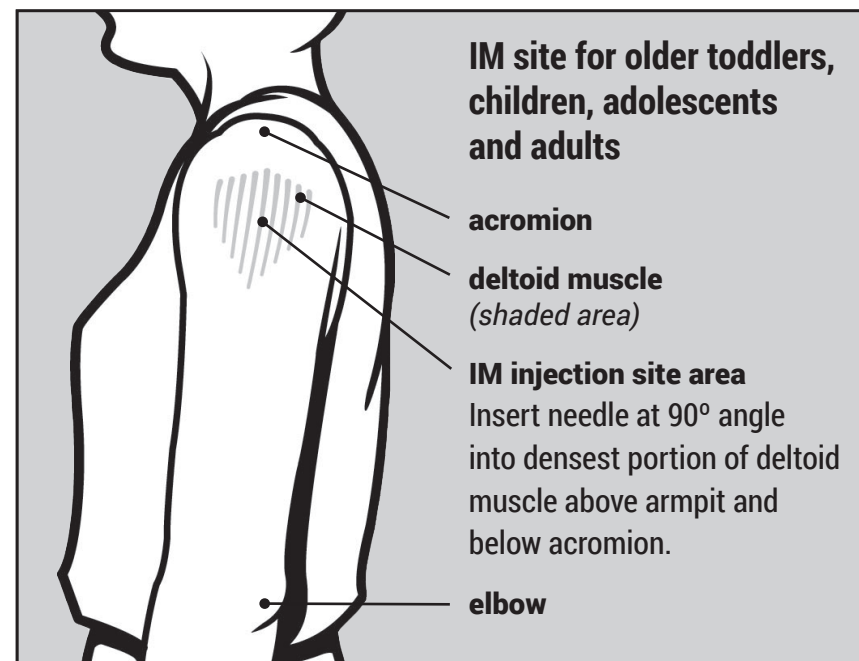
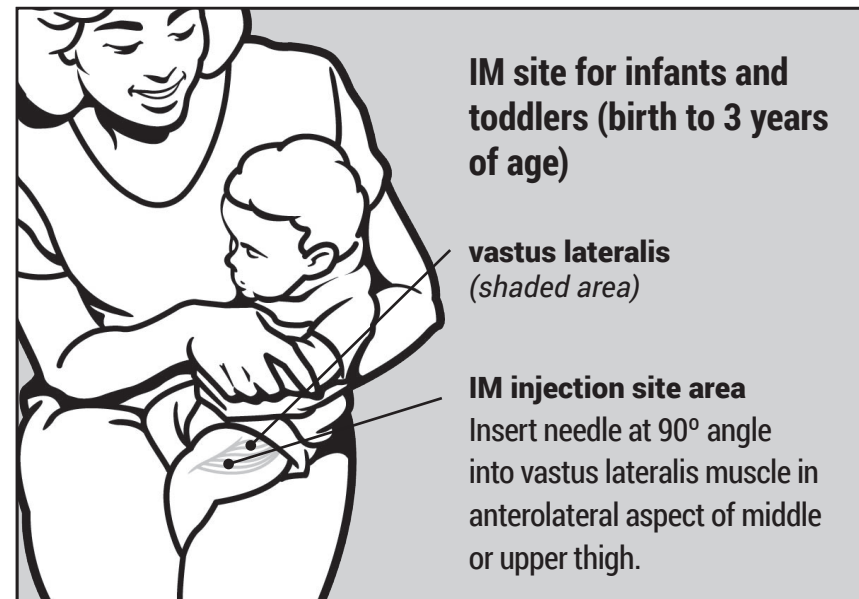
For all IM injections, the needle should be long enough to reach the muscle mass and prevent vaccine from seeping into subcutaneous tissue, but not so long as to involve underlying nerves, blood vessels, or bone. *Use of longer needles has been associated with less redness or swelling than occurs with shorter needles because of injection into deeper muscle mass.*

Aspiration before injection of vaccines is not necessary because no large blood vessels are present at the recommended injection sites.

[†] For neonates (first 28 days of life) and preterm infants, a 5/8" needle is generally adequate if the skin is stretched flat between the thumb and forefinger.

[§] If the subcutaneous and muscle tissue are bunched to minimize the chance of striking bone, a ≥ 1" needle is required to ensure intramuscular administration in patients ≥ 1 month of age

[¶] For patients 12 months of age and older, a 5/8" needle is adequate for the deltoid muscle only **AND** only if the skin is stretched flat between the thumb and forefinger.



How to Administer SQ (Subcutaneous) Injections

SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTIONS

Age	Needle Gauge and Length	Injection Site
Infant <12 months	23-25g – 5/8 inch	• Anterolateral thigh
Persons ≥12 months	23-25g – 5/8 inch	• Upper-outer triceps area

